

Next Siuslaw Baseball Association meeting set for Feb. 7

The Siuslaw Baseball Association will host its next early registration and informational meeting, Tuesday, Feb. 7, in the Siuslaw High School mall area, beginning at 6 p.m.

Register and pay fees early, or come learn about financial assistance and ssk questions. Also, come learn about volunteer opportunities and meet other parents of baseball players this season.

Registration fees are \$50 per T-ball player or \$60 for all

other players. There is also a \$30 "Opt Out" fee available for volunteering.

Fees are nonrefundable after Feb. 19.

SBA Registrations and fees are due by Friday, Feb. 17, or at assessments on Feb. 18 and 19.

Late registrations will be accepted only if approved by the SBA Board on available team space and when accompanied by additional fees determined by late uniform ordering, printing, delivery and

administrative expenses.

To register by mail, send forms and fees to: Siuslaw Baseball Association, P.O. Box 873, Florence, Ore. 97439.

Email questions to siuslaw-baseball@gmail.com

Players will be placed into leagues based on their age as of May 1, 2017.

Leagues will include:
T-ball: Boys and girls, ages 5 and 6 years old. There will be no assessments for this group unless a 6-year-old would like

to try-out for Rookies.

Players must have 1 year of T-ball, be assessed at a Rookie level by coaches at assessments and be approved by the SBA Board as being safe to play up. Rookies: Ages 7 and 8 for boys and girls.

Minors: Boys ages 9 and 10 year old.

Majors: Boys ages 11 and 12 years old.

Prep: Boys ages 13 and 14 year old.

Girls ages 9 years and older

interested in softball can register at Boys and Girls Club by calling 541-902-0304.

Coaches will call players assigned to their teams by March 7 to inform them of practice times.

Rookies, Minors and Majors should turn out for assessments at Miller Park one time, either Saturday or Sunday. T-ball and Prep teams do not need to attend assessments.

Assessments times will be as follows:

- Saturday, Feb. 18
Minors — 9 to 10:30 a.m.
Majors — 10:30 a.m. to noon
 - Rookies — 12:00 to 1:30 p.m.
 - Sunday, Feb. 19
Rookies — 1 to 1:45 p.m.
Minors — 1:45 to 2:30 p.m.
Majors — 2:30 to 3:15 p.m.
- Players with gloves should bring them to assessments. Coaches will use assessment results when drafting players for teams.

Latest NOAA recovery plan sets goal of delisting Oregon coho

NOAA Fisheries have released a recovery plan for Oregon Coast coho salmon that calls for public-private partnerships to conserve habitat for the threatened species, positioning coho for possible removal from the federal list of threatened and endangered species within the next 10 years.

If the plan is successful, Oregon Coast coho could become the first of 28 threatened and endangered species of salmon and steelhead on the West Coast to recover to the point they can be delisted from the Endangered Species Act.

"We can see that recovery is in reach for Oregon Coast coho, which is a testament to

the hard work by the state, coastal communities and landowners to restore habitat and reduce threats from hatcheries and harvest," said Barry Thom, Regional Administrator of NOAA Fisheries' West Coast Region. "Strong partnerships have brought us this far, and they will be critical to get the rest of the way to delisting."

As many as one to two million coho once returned to rivers and streams on the Oregon Coast, supporting fisheries that helped anchor local economies. Intensive fishing and heavy logging through the 1900s contributed to declines, and the number of spawning adults dropped below 15,000 in

the 1980s.

NOAA Fisheries initially listed Oregon Coast coho as a threatened species in 1998.

The condition of the species has since improved as state fish and wildlife officials reduced the risks posed by harvest and hatcheries. Partnerships bridging state, local, tribal and federal levels have helped implement projects to reopen and improve habitat.

Recent numbers have ranged from more than 350,000 spawning adults in 2011 and 2014, dropping back to 57,000 in 2015.

The threats still affecting coho include degraded habitat, especially the loss of floodplain

habitat where many juvenile coho spend their first year growing before migrating to the ocean.

A lack of large wood in rivers that provides rearing habitat for young fish is also a factor. Reduced water quality and barriers such as culverts that block migrating fish pose continuing threats.

"The best available science tells us that habitat is the bottom line in stabilizing and rebuilding coho to the point they can sustain themselves," said Rob Walton, recovery coordinator for NOAA Fisheries' West Coast Region in western Oregon. Coho remain vulnerable to the effects of cli-

mate change on the rivers and streams where they spawn and rear, but improved habitat can help mitigate those impacts.

The plan is voluntary, not regulatory, and hinges on local support and collaboration. Coho recovery, and ultimately delisting, will depend in large part on voluntary actions by partners implementing the recovery plan, complemented by regulatory protections under the Endangered Species Act and other state and local directives.

The plan promotes a network of partnerships that integrate the needs of Oregon Coast coho with the needs of coastal communities.

"The plan recognizes the critical role of local landowners and communities in bringing about recovery," said Guido Rahr, president and CEO of the Wild Salmon Center in Portland, which is leading development of a business plan to guide local recovery measures. "We all must be part of a solution that will deliver multiple benefits for Oregon in the form of resilient communities, improved habitat and healthy fish populations."

For more details and to view the recovery plan, visit NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region website at www.go.usa.gov/x8w53.

SIUSLAW NATIONAL FOREST TO BENEFIT FROM RESTORATION GRANTS

CORVALLIS — Siuslaw National Forest officials received good news in the form of two large grants awarded to the forest and its partners for restoration efforts spanning much of the Oregon coast.

A total of \$495,000 in federal funds will support invasive species management and ecological restoration on the Oregon dunes, as well as stream and forest restoration on and off Forest Service land on the north Oregon coast.

The "Salmon SuperHwy Basin Management Project" was selected for a highly competitive Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership award by the heads of the U.S. Forest Service and Natural Resources

Conservation Service (NRCS).

Funds totaling \$413,000 will be shared among the Siuslaw National Forest and the NRCS Oregon state office to restore and improve habitat for the endangered coho salmon, protect water quality, increase forest health, and support local communities through economic development, increasing infrastructure resiliency and reducing fire risk.

It builds on the existing Salmon SuperHwy initiative that aims to fully address fish passage and habitat needs on federal and private lands in the Nestucca and Tillamook Bay watersheds through a partnership of Forest Service, NRCS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Trout Unlimited, private

landowners and others.

Oregon dunes restoration efforts will benefit from the Pulling Together Initiative grant that is being awarded to Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development (CPRCD) by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. This grant will support an effort with the Siuslaw National Forest, CPRCD, Save the Riders Dunes and other local partners to identify and eradicate invasive species on the Oregon dunes and build capacity for broad scale dunes ecosystem restoration projects into the future.

This \$82,000 grant will support restoration of 200 acres of sand dunes within the Oregon Dunes National Recreation

Area (ODNRA), protect critical habitat for threatened and endangered species, provide trainings for coastal communities to learn how to detect and control invasive species on the dunes, and establish a network of partners all working towards the mutual goal of dunes

restoration.

"We're so thrilled about the opportunities these grants will provide to work with our partners to address critical restoration needs up and down the Oregon coast," said Jerry Ingersoll, Siuslaw forest supervisor. "We have some big chal-

lenges out there. By joining forces with our partners to tackle them, we have the ability to make great strides in improving outcomes for fish and wildlife, and people who live, work and play on the Oregon coast."

Wrestling from 1B

at 285 pounds, and Riley Jennings (152 lbs.) each went 4-1 on the day.

Even though as a team the Vikings didn't win any of its dual meets, falling to Renegade (57-21), Coquille (36-30), Harrisburg (40-12), North Bend (33-22) and Hidden Valley (36-30), Wartnik said he was extremely pleased with his team's performance.

"We came into the tournament short handed, but we still outwrestled several teams," Wartnik said. "I saw some really stellar performances by our wrestlers."

Among them was Lady Viking and senior Eya Abbas, who competed primarily against boys and won 2 out of her 5 matches at 120 pounds.

"She has been training diligently, usually with Richard Huff," Wartnik said of Abbas, who will compete this weekend at Thurston High School for a chance to qualify for state in the women's division.

Tonight, Siuslaw will compete in the Far West League tournament at North Bend before finishing out the regular season at the two-day Cottage Grove Invitational — the Viks' final tune-up meet before district Feb. 10 and 11 at South Umpqua.

Top finishers will advance to state Feb. 24 and 25 in Portland.

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